



# NEWS RELEASE

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### **SBA Deputy Administrator Melanie R. Sabelhaus Recognized as Top Leader in Women's Business**

**WASHINGTON** – Small Business Administration Deputy Administrator Melanie R. Sabelhaus has been recognized as one of the top "Women of the New Millennium" by *Feminine Fortunes* magazine.

Sabelhaus was recently honored for her business savvy in 2003 issue of *Feminine Fortunes: Women of the New Millennium*. The magazine, which honors the accomplishments of 50 top-achieving professional women each year, profiled Sabelhaus alongside Oprah Winfrey and Sandra Day O'Connor for her achievements in public service.

"I commend Melanie Sabelhaus for the dedication and excellence she demonstrates as a leader at the SBA and to the nation's small businesses," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "Melanie is a visionary deserving of such recognition for her work in the advancement of women in business."

Eight prominent women's organizations, including the SBA's Women's Business Centers, nominated candidates for this year's edition of *Feminine Fortunes*, from which Sabelhaus and 49 others were selected.

"It is an incredible honor for me to be listed among the ranks of Laura Bush and Marilyn Carlson Nelson," said Deputy Administrator Sabelhaus. "I am passionate about providing opportunities to women entrepreneurs, the economic powerhouse of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Sabelhaus brings more than 25 years of successful business and corporate experience to her role at the SBA. Sabelhaus founded and served as chief executive officer of Exclusive Interim Properties LTD., a furnished accommodations firm, from 1986 to 1997 when EIP merged with four similar firms. The company went public as Bridgestreet Accommodations in 1997. Sabelhaus became vice president of Global Sales and served on the board of directors until 1998. Before forming her own business, she served in a variety of management positions with the IBM Corporation for 15 years.

Before joining the SBA, Sabelhaus devoted three years to community fund raising and women's business issues. She has served on numerous boards of directors including the United Way, the Alzheimer's Association of Central Maryland, the Nantucket Historical Society, and as a member of the Executive Advisory Board for Ohio University's College of Business. Sabelhaus co-chaired the National Summit on Women in Philanthropy and she is a founding chair of the United Way Women's Initiative in Baltimore, Md. She was named last year as the national chair of the Women's Initiative for the United Way of America, and the honorary co-chair of the Copper Ridge Institute's Capitol Campaign. She is also a 2002 recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Fund-raiser Award presented by the Association of Fund-raising Professionals, the College of Notre Dame of Maryland's Pro Urbe Award for her contributions to the community and as a successful small business entrepreneur, and the Ohio University's School of Business award for Achievement in Business.